



TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1992

Angela:

Are you doing the story on the Belleville police chase into Newark? If so, would you please include the Mayor's comments? I had him on the phone and tried to reach you, but you were unavailable.

STATEMENT BY MAYOR SHARPE JAMES

"Here we have another tragic incident where an innocent person has been killed and two police officers are hospitalized because a group of young people were out joyriding in a stolen car.

"I would urge any witnesses to the accident to come forward with any information that would be valuable to the police and Essex County Prosecutor's office in apprehending the driver and occupants of the stolen automobile.

"At the same time, we must stop this terrible epidemic of auto theft that is taking the lives of innocent people and maiming others. Parents, teachers, and churches must become involved in speaking out against our children continuing to steal cars for recreational purposes and injuring or killing others. Here we have another incident of a terrible tragedy that could have been avoided.

"Once again, I am calling on the Essex County Prosecutor to convene a meeting with the police directors of every city and town in this county to explore each municipality's auto pursuit policies. It is not the policy of the Newark Policy Department to chase stolen cars, except in the most extreme circumstances."